

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this paper, Claims 1-25 were pending. Claims 1-3, 5, 15, 18, 20-23 and 25 were rejected, and Claims 4, 6-14, 16, 17, 19 and 24 were identified as being allowable if re-written in independent form. In this paper, Claims 1, 4, 6-9, 14-17, 19, 22, and 25 are amended; and Claims 18 and 20 are cancelled. Claims 1-17, 19, and 21-25 are currently pending. No new matter is added by way of this amendment. For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the presently pending claims is in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 6-14, 16, 17, 19 and 24 were identified as being allowable if re-written in independent form.

Claims 4, 14, 16, and 19 have been re-written in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 6 as pending prior to entry of this paper. Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 17 as pending prior to entry of this paper. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 4, 14-16, and 19 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 2, 3, 5, 7-13, 21, and 23 depend from allowable Claim 1. Claims 6 and 24 depend from allowable Claim 4. Claims 17 and 25 depend from allowable Claim 16. Claim 22 depends on allowable Claim 14. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 3, 5-13, 17, and 21-25 are in condition for allowance.

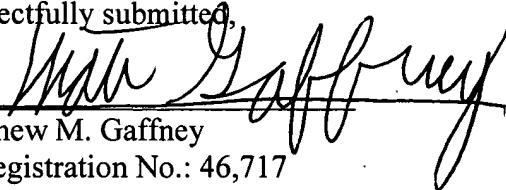
It is respectfully submitted that the claims as pending prior to this paper were in condition for allowance. However, because the most recent Office Action was made final, Applicant has made various amendments and cancellations which are respectfully submitted to render all outstanding rejections and objections moot. Applicant reserves the right to claim the subject matter of the claims as pending prior to this paper in a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (1-17, 19, and 21-25) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that the prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby. Although only certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentable. Applicant reserves the right to raise these arguments in the future.

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Respectfully submitted,

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